

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 11

November 1994

Dinosaurs in the Badlands

by Carol McCoy Brown,
Geologist
Custer National Forest

Even the scorching summer sun couldn't deter the group as they scraped the hillsides in search of the mighty T-rex, and scoured the badlands for remnants of the ancient inhabitants of what was once hundreds of square miles of humid swamp..."

It may sound like a line from a novel but it describes what actually happened to a small group of employees and volunteers when the Custer National Forest sponsored its second workshop in paleontology during earlier this August.

Last year, the Custer, in cooperation with North Dakota Geological Survey paleontologist Dr. John Hoganson and Forest Service paleontologist Barbara Beasley, presented a paleontology workshop attended by over 40 people from all over the Nation. The group this year is equally diverse, including geologists, archaeologists, lands specialists, minerals specialists, foresters, a botanist, a physicist, a public affairs officer, and a forest supervisor/archaeologist (Nancy Curriden, new supervisor of the Custer National Forest).

One factor common among all participants was an extremely high interest in learning more about and protecting this unusual, rare, and valuable resource. As a result, this workshop concentrated on providing additional experience in discovering, identifying, and excavating fossils. Once again, the session was led by Dr. Hoganson.

The lands of the Custer are particularly conducive to fossil deposits. There is significant evidence at least part of the badlands were once humid swamps inhabited by ancient turtles and prehistoric alligators and crocodiles. Elsewhere in the Custer, fossil remains suggest prehistoric habitation by some of the larger

vertebrates, including the mighty Tyrannosaurus rex and the Triceratops.

By chance, one of the participants in last year's workshop had discovered a ceratops tibia on Custer land while deer hunting. He recognized both the bone and the formation it was in, and reported it to the forest geologist. As part of this year's workshop, the entire group visited the site and excavated the ceratops bone. Initial indications are that this is a major site, both for possible dinosaur remains, and for other significant vertebrate fossils. Evaluation of the site is planned as the next step in the process.

The workshop's next stop was a site discovered last year by another hunter. Several specimens, including the skull of a prehistoric crocodile-like creature (Champsosaur), were excavated by the group. This second area has all indications of being an unusual and important fossil site, and its evaluation is also being planned.

The Custer has had a Memorandum of Agreement with the North Dakota Geological Survey since 1986 regarding paleontological resources of North Dakota. These workshops have been an offshoot of that MOA and have demonstrated the benefits to both agencies of collaborating on such efforts. Through the workshops, the Custer is developing a cadre of personnel with the interest level and skills to identify and manage the fossil resources in which the forest is particularly rich.

If you are interested in participating in future Custer National Forest paleontology workshops, please contact Carol McCoy-Brown (C.Brown:R01F08A or 406/657-6361). We also welcome questions and inquiries from other forests who may be developing or wishing to develop a similar program.

Harnessing the Future...



Girl Scout trail crew and supervisors near Hyalite reservoir

Montana and North Dakota Girl Scouts Join Forces

by Rick Ellison,
Civil Engineer Technician
Gallatin National Forest

Girl Scouts from Bismarck, North Dakota and Bozeman, Montana, volunteered several days of their summer vacation to construct a portion of a hiking trail along the recently enlarged Hyalite reservoir, 16 miles south of Bozeman. It was a joint effort put together by Girl Scout leaders and Gallatin National Forest personnel from the Bozeman District and the Gallatin Supervisor Office's Engineering unit. The project was educational for the girls, which was a forest objective, and it achieved another goal of completing a trail using all volunteer labor.

Before any work began, the forest took the opportunity to acquaint the girls with careers for women in the Forest Service, a presentation made by Bozeman district resource spe-

cialist Nancy Halstrom. General information on trails and trail construction was given but primary emphasis was placed on the safe use of hand tools.

Following the orientation, the 15-member crew proceeded to build 1,800 feet of trail in three days. It wasn't an easy task, considering what was involved: excavation and clearing of the trail, root and rock removal, switchback construction, native log and rock waterbar installation, and drain dips.

Despite the 90-degree temperatures that first week in August, the enthusiasm of the crew and their leaders and the quality of their work was outstanding. Excellent job by a crew that ranged in age from 13 to 17—not long in years, but certainly in energy and spirit.



Young men and women hard at work on Eustache Creek

13, YMCA coordinators and Ninemile District and Supervisor's Office personnel placed log structures, rolled and carried boulders for stream placement and tore apart the fish barrier. Everybody had fun with the young people working exceptionally hard.

The results of this project will be monitored over the next several years for population changes and for the effectiveness of the structures. The participation of the YMCA and the Forest Service personnel made the day's labor successful for district, for the kids and—with luck—for the fish.

It's a Long Way to Manhattan

The streets of Manhattan are a long way from the trails of the Bob Marshall Wilderness. For New Yorker Amy Ng, the familiar sounds of honking horns were replaced for a brief period this summer by the high pitch whoots of owls and the constant roar of Hahn Creek rushing by the camp site.

Amy, along with five other high school students from all over the country (New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Virginia, Washington), volunteered to complete needed work on Hahn Creek Trail in "the Bob" July 18-August 15. The students were recruited by the Student Conservation Association (SCA), which contacts high schools for students interested in completing conservation-related projects.

The Forest Service is one of the cooperating agencies that uses SCA as a means of involving young people in their programs. The funding for the program comes from the students, who pay for their own transportation to the job site; the SCA, who make scholarships available for students who would otherwise be unable to participate; and the cooperating agency, which pays for food and supervision.

David McEvoy, paramedic with Missoula Emergency Ambulances, and Andrea Stephens, a science teacher at Big Sky High School in Missoula, were the SCA supervisors on site. Dave Arbach, forestry technician for the Spotted Bear Ranger District, served as Forest Service supervisor of the project.

The crew did an excellent job and provided a needed service for the Forest Service. They arrived with a great attitude that carried them through four weeks of hard manual labor. In the meantime, they had a terrific time.

by Fred Flint, Assistant District Ranger
Spotted Ranger District
Flathead National Forest

Getting Young People Involved in NATIVE FISHERY

by Ken Furrow,
Biologist Technician, Lolo National Forest

In July, Lolo National Forest employees and young people from the YMCA combined efforts to enhance and improve fish habitat on a portion of Eustache Creek, a tributary to Ninemile Creek. Eustache Creek historically was important as a spawning stream for native species coming out of the Ninemile Creek and the Clark Fork River. The lower portions of the stream have been heavily channelized by past placer mining with little to no habitat available for the native fisheries. A man-made fish barrier was also in place which inhibited movement into the upstream portions of the drainage.

Young people between the ages of 11 and

...and Saving the Past

The Canyon Creek KILNS

by Jack de Golia,
Public Affairs Specialist
Beaverhead National Forest

For the last two summers, crews of volunteer masons and others have climbed on scaffolds surrounding 3 of the 22 charcoal kilns along Canyon Creek in the Beaverhead Forest. Lying eight miles west of Melrose, Montana, the kilns are among the few reminders left of a booming mining and smelting operation that took place there and in the next drainage south at a town called Glendale.

The volunteers have worked to stabilize three 25-foot high, beehive-shaped ovens used to turn wood into charcoal in the 1880's. Built by the Hecla Consolidated Mining Company, the kilns were stuffed with wood that was slowly burned. The resulting charcoal then went to fire the smelter at Glendale and turn ore into \$22 million worth of silver, lead, and copper over the lifetime of the operation. At their height, the kilns produced more than 100,000 bushels of char-



coal a month.

When the ore played out, Glendale and the kilns were left to the elements. Time has reduced Glendale to a roofless brick barn, a pile of slag, and a smokestack without a building. Most of the kilns remain in good



Above: Early mining camp of Glendale, MT.
Courtesy the Beaverhead County Museum.

Left: The Canyon Creek kilns - among the few reminders left of the mining and smelting operations in the area.

shape. Three, in particular, will withstand a few more winter snows, spring thaws, summer heat, and fall winds, and tell their story to more curious people who stand and wonder about these odd-looking structures.

Sourdough Peak Lookout

by Cindy Schacher, Archaeology Technician
Nez Perce National Forest



Sourdough Peak Lookout

The historic 1927 Sourdough Peak Lookout, located near the Gospel Hump Wilderness, has a special place among lookouts in Region One. It consists of a log cabin with a cupola, based primarily on a model design created by the Forest Service in the 1920's. However, during construction, the local builder modified the number and placement of the windows to create a continuous band of windows encircling the building.

Preservation of these unique characteristics was the aim of the Nez Perce National Forest in a recent restoration project completed this summer, headed by Forest archaeologists Cindy Schacher and Ali Abusaidi. The effort was supported by contractor and former Forest Service employee Bruce Dreher and the Forest Service Passport In Time (PIT) Program. PIT is part of National Heritage Resource Program which provides opportunities for individuals to work with professional archaeologists and historians on projects involving historic or prehistoric resources.

Following a course of work approved by

the State Historic Preservation Office, volunteers at Sourdough Peak assisted with the preparation and placement of new wall logs, general clean-up of the lookout interior, scraping of old paint and applying a fresh coat to window shutters, sanding of the maple hardwood flooring, and the rebuilding of the rock and mortar foundation. Volunteers also assisted Cindy and Ali with the recordation of historic can and bottle dumps and trails associated with the lookout. This recordation included mapping, sketching and photographing.

Volunteers traveled from as far as Nebraska, Chicago, and Florida to take part in this remote back-country project. Also participating were volunteers from Grangeville, Peck, Lewiston, and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The enthusiasm and intense labor from all participants was greatly appreciated. Forest Service employees will return to the site this fall to complete the project. When the work is completed Sourdough Peak Lookout will be restored to its original grandeur so that we and future generations may enjoy a "peak" into the past.

Digging for Crystals

Crystal Park, located along the Pioneer Mountains Scenic Byway in the Dillon Ranger District, is a unique crystal digging area. Thanks to the efforts of the Butte Mineral and Gem Club over many years, anyone may stop in with a shovel, trowel, or even a popsicle stick and dig for quartz crystals.

The club first kept the area open to the public by maintaining a mining claim on it. Later, it supported the ranger district's effort to have the area withdrawn from staking of mineral claims to provide for public recreational access to the crystals. The withdrawal order was Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt's first official act after being confirmed as by the Senate in early 1993. Now, people flock to Crystal Park throughout the summer season, to search for hexagonal, clear or slightly purple crystals.

The club recently received a Regional Forester's award in recognition of their cooperation with the Forest Service in the management of Crystal Park. The award was presented this past July by Chuck Wassinger, director of the Region's Lands and Minerals unit, who, accompanied by Katie Bump and Phyllis Denton from the Beaverhead National Forest, attended the club's annual meeting in Butte.

Stated Dillon District Ranger Barry Hicks of the club's efforts, "They have been constant, enthusiastic cooperators, true to their vision for Crystal Park. They have managed to get the attention of the Forest Service and share their vision with us. We could not have the quality recreation site we have today at Crystal Park without them."

by Jack de Golia,
Public Affairs Officer
Deerlodge &
Beaverhead National Forests



The Etiquette of Meeting a Grizzly on a Trail

by Shawna Zechmann,
Interpretive Specialist,
Rocky Mountain Ranger District
Lewis & Clark National Forest

So you're hiking in the Northern Rocky Mountains on a beautiful summer day, ambling down a trail thick with wildflowers. You are enveloped in scenic splendor, absorbed in the wildness around you. As you round the next bend, you see something large and covered with fur in a small grove of aspens. You walk a few steps closer to get a better look and perhaps a photo when the animal suddenly stands on its hind legs to get a better look and smell of you. It's a bear. The brochures on bears you received at a nearby national park are on the back seat of your car, unread. The bear suddenly drops to all fours

and starts walking toward you. What do you do?

The Lewis and Clark National Forest's Rocky Mountain District may be able to help you avoid getting into this situation. The Forest will be constructing the Nation's first Grizzly Bear Interpretive Trail at Marias Pass Historical Site, a developed rest area and campground located on the southern border of Glacier National Park. This handicapped-accessible trail will be about .7 miles long and will wind through prime grizzly habitat.

The trail will teach people about the lifestyle of the great bear, while informing them about ways of avoiding encounters and conflicts—conflicts that could result in a person being seriously injured or even killed. The trail will also stress the importance of careful actions to keep the grizzly bear, a threatened species since 1975, from disappearing from one of its last strongholds.

Several agencies and organizations have taken an interest in this project.

Glacier National Park assisted with preliminary trail design and will edit interpretive messages. Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is assisting with interpretive messages and design. Blackfeet traditionalists have provided insight to their past and current views of the grizzly and will be involved in the writing and design incorporated of the sign incorporating their views. Glacier County, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, is providing trail and interpretive design assistance as

well as being a Challenge Cost Share partner.

As a spin off, General Norman Schwartzkopf, the national grizzly bear spokesperson, and the Center for Wildlife Information (CWI) plan to dedicate the trail in the fall of 1995. CWI is another Challenge Cost Share partner in this project.

The interactive nature of the interpretive exhibits should make a lasting impression on trail users. It's an exciting project that has great value to people and wildlife alike. For questions or comments about the trail, contact Shawna Zechmann at (406) 466-5341.



The R-1 Pack Train in the Gallatin



L to R: Patricia Hesch, Steven Listman on "Grace," and Bob Hoverson.

Another Banner Year for the Northern Region Pack Train

by Bob Hoverson, Forester,
Ninemile Ranger District

Northern Region Pack train manager Bob Hoverson and his assistant Dave York have spent another extraordinary season on the road with the Region's mule train. The forests and districts nominated many outstanding projects for the pack train, more than twice as many as could be accommodated.

An estimated 80,000 people in Montana, Idaho, and Washington were able to have personal contact with this unit during the 1994 season and we made appearances in 12 of the 13 forests in Region One. The Big Horn Sport Show in Spokane, county fairs, the College National Finals Rodeo and working with young cancer patients were just a few of the special events in which the pack train participated this year.

The pack train, which is available free of charge to any forest or ranger district in Region One, offers a "state-of-the-art" display and program on minimum impact camping and stock use; can pack large volumes of equipment, materials, and supplies to remote back country or wilderness areas; and are a very popular and professional representative of the Forest Service in parades, fairs, and other special public events.

Get ready to nominate your packing project or educational program for next season! Beginning December 1, the Northern Region Pack Train Board of Directors will again be accepting requests for this unit to provide work, education or show type services. An information packet detailing just what this unit can do for you as well as information on how to request the pack train is available by contacting Bob Hoverson or Lynne Sholty at Ninemile Ranger Station, 20325 Remount Road, Huson, Mt 59846, or telephone (406) 626-5201 or by DG at R01F16D04A.



by Patricia Hesch,
Forester
Hebgen Lake Ranger District
Gallatin National Forest

The versatility of the Region One Pack Train, led by Bob Hoverson and Dave York, shone through this summer during the mules' visit to the Madison District, Beaverhead National Forest, and the Hebgen Lake District, Gallatin National Forest. The two-week "hitch" in southwest Montana this July started with a work project in the Madison, packing timbers up the Bear Creek drainage to replace a bridge in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness.

The week ended with a day of low impact camping lessons for about 25 local outfitters. Most of the outfitters present have been in the business for many years, but they were all obviously interested in Bob's agenda, and took home some new "light on the land" ideas.

The pack train moved on to West Yellowstone, where they were hosted by the Hebgen Lake District. Bob and Dave packed water bars and trail markers into the beautiful Bacon Rind Country, followed by a day of packing fence posts to the Cabin Creek Cabin. The posts will be used to build a new corral next season.

With their work out of the way, the "fun" sessions began. It has become an annual event for the string to participate in the Hebgen Lake Day of the Eagle Mount/Big Sky Kids Summer Camp. Eagle Mount is a program which provides a week's worth of activities for young cancer patients and their families. Each year, through private dona-

tions, about 30 children and their parents are brought to Big Sky from all over the country. The kids' favorite part of the camp is "Hebgen Lake Day" where they spend the day at Rainbow Point, boating, barbecuing, and watching the Nine Mile Pack Train do their stuff.

This year, Bob and Dave rode into the picnic area leading the string, and then spent about 45 minutes introducing the mules and explaining all their equipment. The kids had plenty of questions and afterwards we all joined them for a picnic lunch. Kids have told camp organizers they love to see the mule team and look forward to it each year.

The busy week in West Yellowstone continued with a demonstration in the city park and a demonstration at a summer camp for local kids. The week was wrapped up with a packing workshop for the community. About 30 folks joined Bob and Dave at the district's corral for a few hours of instruction in packing methods, and of course, another cook-out. As much as the district enjoys having the team come to town, I think Bob and Dave look forward to coming because they know they will be well fed!

Both the Madison and Hebgen Lake Districts have benefited greatly from the work that the Region One Pack String has done in the last couple of years, and we, as much as the children of the community, hope that Bob, Dave and the "crew" will come back in years to come.



Awards

Job Corps Celebrates 30th Anniversary

by Marlette Lacey,
Administrative Officer
Trapper Creek Jobs Corps Center

In September, 300 students and staff from the Trapper Creek Job Corps Center signed a scroll displayed on Capitol Hill October 3-7, along with scrolls from all 111 job corps centers throughout America. Students crafted the scrolls, valued at \$450 each, from materials at their centers.

Job Corps is the Nation's oldest and largest Federally funded residential job training, education, and job placement program for disadvantaged youths. Students, who range in age from 16-24, could have joined the country's burgeoning population of underemployed, undereducated youths. Instead they are seeking a basic education, job training, and many other services needed to lead productive lives.

Sheldon Old Chief, a member of the Blackfoot tribe and currently a student at Trapper Creek, said, if given 5 minutes with the President, he'd tell him, "It is a pretty good place, and helped to turn my life around. It is a good opportunity to get an education, vocation, and develop one's social skills. For me, the Job Corps is the way."

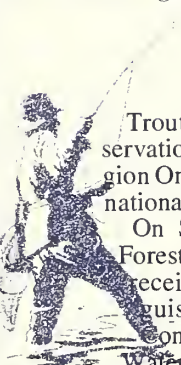
Beth Paragamian of the Idaho Panhandle National Forests has been selected Northern Region Interpreter of the Year for 1994. Beth will represent the Northern Region in national competition for the Gifford Pinchot Excellence in Interpretation Award which is given to the outstanding National Forest Interpreter in the Nation each year.

Beth is a full-time watchable wildlife specialist in a unique collaboration between the Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Bureau of Land Management, each of whom contribute to her salary. Beth has been enormously successful in working with partners to develop wildlife interpretive sites and programs. She also designs and delivers education programs, coordinates special events, and writes articles, newsletters, and scripts.

Beth's skills as an interpreter are nowhere more apparent than when speaking one-on-one with the thousands of captivated students and Forest visitors that she personally contacts each year in over one hundred presentations. Effective team player, professional educator, tireless worker, broad gauge thinker, and inspiring interpreter are all terms that describe Beth Paragamian. She is an excellent choice for Northern Region Interpreter of the Year for 1994.



Beth Paragamian and her friend Widget, the saw-whet owl.



Trout Unlimited, a fisheries conservation group, honored two Region One forest supervisors with a national award.

On September 24, Deerlodge Forest Supervisor **Van Elsbernd** received a award for Distinguished Service to National Conservation Policies for Cold Water Fisheries. Noted was his work in public involvement in forest management of the Rock Creek drainage. Van Elsbernd took the lead in organizing two large public meetings on management of the area. "These meetings were very fair and open and could serve as a model for future

public meetings," stated Trout Unlimited Westlope Chapter President Steve Schombel.

A co-participant in planning for the Rock Creek drainage was **Orville Daniels**, recently retired supervisor of the Lolo National Forest. As a result of many months of analyzing the comments from these meetings and from thousands of letters and other comments, the two supervisors announced a suspension of all timber harvest in the Rock Creek drainage for the next 10 years of Forest Management Plans.

Daniels received the prestigious Trout Conservation Award not only for his work in Rock Creek but in recognition of his achievements during the whole of his 37 years with the Forest Service. "Throughout his career Orville Daniels has been concerned with the environment and proper management of the Lolo National Forest. Although his duties included much more than trout conservation, we feel that his career in summary deserves consideration," Schombel commented.

Carla Kurtz, of the Medora Ranger District, Custer National Forest was one of two Forest Service employees selected nationally to receive the Women's Equality Day award.

Recognized was Carla's work and leadership in many women-related issues. For the past two years she has assisted the Dickinson Community Federal Emergency Management Assistance Board, and currently is serving as its president. The board supports through grant funding many charitable causes involving the homeless and needy. She has worked as well with the Domestic Violence/Rape Crisis Board, particularly in the area of counseling and prevention. For the past 4 years, Carla has been instrumental in the planning, preparation and execution of the Custer National Forest's Native American Youth Practicum. She has also actively recruited Native American women for Forest Service employment.

Hearing her name called at the award's ceremony in Washington, D.C. proved an emotional time for Carla, who recalled all the struggles she had been through to achieve equality. Said Carla, "I was proud to be representing Region One, Custer National Forest, Medora Ranger District in North Dakota, and the women of the U.S. Forest Service."



Carla Kurtz

Creating a Path for Others to Follow

by Yolanda Harris, Contract Specialist, and Marcus Bowen, Criminal Investigator
Lolo National Forest



Front row, L to R: Charles Stuart, Marlette Lacey, Katie McReynolds, Steve Sherman, Yolanda Harris, Leslie Weldon, Proscilla Overton and Marcus Bowen.
Back row, L to R: Jonathan Green, William Corthen, Art Hilton, Willie Sykes and Cliff Paradise.

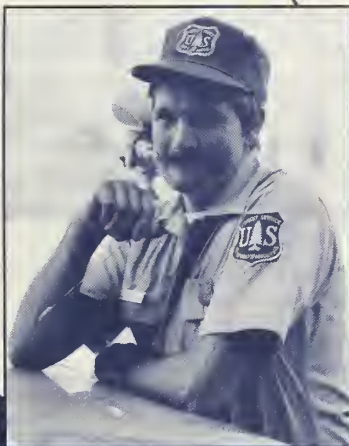
August 11 emerged as a time of unity for the African American Strategy Group (AASG). The AASG convened at the Regional Office to discuss concerns facing African Americans in Region One. Currently, 17 African Americans are employed by the Region, comprising less than 1 percent of the total workforce. Eleven are permanent full-time employees, four are seasonal employees and two are co-op students under the 1890 program.

The AASG met with Regional Forester Dave Jolly and Deputy Regional Forester Chris Risbrudt to offer assistance and support, as the Forest Service strives toward its goal as a multicultural organization and an employer of choice. The local AASG focused particularly on helping Region One to attain its workforce diversity goals as they relate to African Americans.

AASG members voiced many issues and concerns at the meeting. A recurring theme focused on recruitment, retention, training, and mentoring. The group regarded mentoring as an important factor throughout the Forest Service; perhaps as important as skill and talent when employees strive for acceptance and greater professional development. Without these essential career components, retention of employees is difficult.

The meeting elicited feelings of energy and great expectations. Members of the AASG view ourselves as pioneers in a new frontier and feel compelled to leave a clear path for others to follow. We look forward to the forthcoming challenges with a great deal of optimism.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about the AASG, contact Yolanda Harris, Lolo National Forest, (406) 329-3770.



Name: Dan Davis

From: Beach City, Ohio

Profession: Wildlife biologist, Clearwater National Forest

What Job REALLY Is: I help manage conflict! Conflict between people and the uses of natural resources, particularly as it relates to wildlife habitat and populations.

Best Part of My Job Is: Is the totally unexpected—unpredicted everyday opportunities that allow me to share information and help resolve a problem. At times these opportunities are overwhelming and stressful but the bottom line is that I really do love what I do.

Previous Life: I have worked for Idaho Fish and Game in a previous life and

spotlight

numerous other jobs, such as bakery, dairy, construction, railroad, food service, carpet cleaning, house moving and sawmill work just to stay alive.

How I Spend My Time Away from Work: Boating with my family and friends; during the school year, following my son and daughter around in a variety of activities involving both athletics and education; skiing.

My Dream Vacation: Is about the one I've already taken to Hawaii that turned out to be the Vacation from Hell of which I'm still having nightmares instead of dreams about. Therapy is not helping make the payments either.... Okay, there's a little more to the story. From the day we got married, my wife has always wanted to go to Hawaii. I vowed, never, and for 22 years held out. Then, in a moment of weakness and from the effects of aging, I surprised my wife with two tickets to two islands, seven nights in Hawaii. We rented Hawaii videos. We read Hawaii travel books. We planned and we planned this once in a lifetime trip. Everything went just fine until about 30 minutes from landing in Honolulu. I should have sensed something was seriously wrong when the natives on the flight sitting next to us got on their knees and

began praying. Outside the window of the plane you could see it was getting very dark for 2:30 in the afternoon. We landed in Honolulu in one of the worst storms ever recorded on the island. Something like 24 inches of rain fell in a 20-hour period and life-threatening flooding was occurring. Our hotel was sand-bagged for our protection and enjoyment. The beaches were flooded with dirt and garbage that had come from the flood choked creeks. The weather people described it as a 100-year catastrophic event. I had my own term....It (the storm) lasted for 4 more days and nights. The rain. The cold. We did not bring the proper clothing. Oh sure, we did see some sunshine on the second island but the damage was already done for me. Will I be going back to Hawaii any time soon???? Let me just say it will take longer than 22 years for me to dry out.

My Greatest Adventure: Leaving home at age 19 and coming West never to return.

Achievement I'm Most Proud of: Raising two wonderful children, with a great wife, in a home that I built while trying to become the forest wildlife biologist on the Clearwater National Forest.

WILDERNESS:

*by Ann Acheson,
Regional Air Quality
Specialist*

Can We Keep the Pristine Pristine?

We know that air pollution from burning of fossil fuels and an industrial way of life has the potential to significantly impact wilderness. Air pollution can change the biology and chemistry of wilderness lakes, streams, and soils, and degrade clear skies and vistas. Air pollution can influence plant and animal reproductive processes, nutrient cycling, and insect, pest and pathogen interactions.

For the above reasons, and to comply with the 1977 Clean Air Act Amendments, the Northern Region is monitoring lake chemistry and biology, lichens, and visibility in several of our wildernesses. The Clean Air Act requires that we protect Class I wilderness areas from adverse effects of air pollution. Class I areas include all wilderness greater than 5,000 acres that existed when the amendments were passed. In Region One, those wildernesses include: Bob Marshall, Cabinet Mountains, Selway-Bitterroot, Anaconda-Pintler, Gates of the Mountains, Mission Mountains, and the Scapegoat.

What are the monitoring results?

Lake chemistry and biology: Emissions from sources such as coal burning power plants can cause major chemical and biological changes in a sensitive lake or stream ecosystem. "Sensitive" is usually defined by the capacity of a system to buffer incoming acid due to air pollution. Our monitoring has found no lakes changed by air pollution but some likely to change if subject to even small amounts of air pollution or acid rain. For instance, certain lakes in the Selway-Bitterroot and the Cabinet Mountains Wil-

dernesses would have almost no capacity to neutralize incoming acid rain.

Lichens: Lichens are monitored because they are sensitive to air pollution and they accumulate pollutants in their tissue which act as an historical record of the pollutants which have impacted an area. Lichens being inventoried and monitored show normal distribution and population and little pollution impacts.

Visibility: Monitoring results indicate that, except in localized areas, Region 1 still has some of the cleanest air in the country, with visibility averaging between 100 to 150 miles on an average day. The cleaner the air is, however, the more quickly it can be degraded by air pollution. In other words, if the air is pristine, it only takes a small amount of pollution to cause a major reduction in visibility. In dirty air, it would take a large amount of additional pollution to cause the same visibility decrease.

Because we do not yet have data documenting what is in the air, we have not been able to define what causes visibility impacts in our Region. Our wilderness areas are dependent on fire so we obviously know that visibility is, has always been, and will continue to be affected by smoke from forest fires. We do not yet know, however, the degree that man-made pollution sources such as power plants, smelters or major urban areas affect visibility.

The air quality that affects Region One wilderness is still generally good to excellent. However, only by protecting sensitive wilderness attributes such as lakes, vegetation, and visibility from man-made air pollution impacts can we protect the integrity of the wilderness resource for future generations.

American Indian use of Fire in Ecosystems

by Jerry Williams,
Regional Sociologist, Region 6

In the effort to understand the role of fire in the ecosystem, there has been growing interest in determining the purposeful use of fire by the American Indian.

Documentation has been difficult in that by the time Europeans arrived in many parts of North America, a number of native populations were on the verge of collapse due to new diseases accidentally introduced against which the Indians had no immunity. In addition, warfare with old enemies and new settlers, new technologies, change of economy to fur trading and sheep grazing, different food sources, and restriction of movement or in some cases relocation from traditional lands all had severe negative consequences on native cultures.

By the late 1800s, many native languages were becoming extinct and knowledge of the "old" ways was dying. Only a handful of ethnographers and anthropologists—many employed by the Smithsonian Institution and/or the American Bureau of Ethnology—felt the need to record Indian languages and lifestyle before the last of many tribes disappeared.

Some information on the use of fire does exist, however. There were accounts by explorers noting huge burned-over areas with many dead trees "littering" the landscape, without knowledge of whether the fires were natural or Indian caused. Written accounts by early settlers and fur trappers remain incomplete although many noted that there were open prairies with tall grasses in almost every river basin.

Generally, Native Americans burned parts of the ecosystems in which they lived to promote a diversity of habitats and give them greater security from attack. Their use of fire was different from white settlers who burned to create greater uniformity in ecosystems, or more single use of the land. White settlers had greater access to goods and services than Native Americans and therefore were not as dependent on the land for survival.

Most accounts speak to the purposeful burning of areas to establish or retain a diversity of plant and animal life. These fires differ from natural fires in several aspects. Burning by Indians was seasonal, some-

times in the early spring or summer, while at other times in the fall after the hunt and berry picking season was over. Hardly ever did they purposely burn during mid-summer and early fall when forests were most vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire. Often the Indians burned selected areas yearly, every other year, or intervals as long as five years.

Steve Pyne, in his book entitled "Fire in America: A Cultural History of Wildland and Rural Fire," states:

"The modification of the American continent by fire at the hands of Asian immigrants was the result of repeated, controlled, surface burns on a cycle of one to three years, broken by occasional holocausts from escape fires and periodic conflagrations during times of drought. Even under ideal circumstances, accidents occurred: signal fires escaped and campfires spread, with the result that valuable range was untimely scorched, buffalo driven away, and villages threatened. Burned corpses on the prairie were far from rare. So extensive were the cumulative effects of these modifications that it may be said that the general consequence of the Indian occupation of the New World was to replace forested land with grassland or savannah, or, where the forest persisted, to open it up and free it from underbrush. Most of the impenetrable woods encountered by explorers were in bogs or swamps from which fire was excluded; naturally drained landscape was nearly everywhere burned. Conversely, almost wherever the European went, forests followed. The Great American Forest may be more a product of settlement than a victim of it.

Intentional burning has greatly modified landscapes across the continent in many subtle ways that have often been interpreted as "natural" by the early explorers, trappers, and settlers. Even many research scientists who study presettlement forest and savannah fire evidence tend to attribute most prehistoric fires as being caused by lightning rather than humans. This problem arises because there was no systematic record keeping of these fire events. Thus the interaction of people and ecosystems is down played or ignored, which often leads to the conclusion that people are a problem in 'natural' ecosystems rather than the primary force in their development."

There are at least 11 documented reasons for American Indian ecosystem burning:

- **Hunting** - Burning of large areas to divert big game into small unburned areas for easier hunting and provide open prairies/meadows where animals like to dine on fresh, new grass sprouts. Fire was also used to drive game into impoundments, narrow chutes, into rivers or lakes, or over cliffs where the animals could be killed. Some tribes used a surrounding fire to drive rabbits into small areas where they could be easily killed for food. The Seminoles even practiced hunting alligators with fire.

- **Crop Management** - Burning used to harvest crops, especially tarweed, yucca, greens, and grass seed collection. In addition, fire was used to prevent abandoned fields from growing over and to clear areas for planting corn and tobacco. It cleared ground of grass and brush to facilitate the gathering of acorns. Fire used to roast mescal and obtain salt from grasses.

- **Improve Growth and Yields** - Fire used to improve grass for big game grazing, camas reproduction, seed plants, berry plants (especially raspberries, strawberries, and huckleberries), and tobacco.

- **Fireproof Areas** - Some indications that fire was used to protect certain medicine plants by clearing an area around the plants, as well as to fireproof areas, especially around settlements, from destructive wildfires. Fire was also used to keep prairies open from encroaching shrubs and trees.

- **Insect Collection** - Using a "fire surround" to collect and roast crickets, grasshoppers, pandora moths in pine forests, and collect honey from bees.

- **Pest management** - Burning used to reduce insects, such as black flies and mosquitos; and rodents; as well as kill mistletoe that invaded mesquite and oak trees.

- **Warfare** - Use of fire to deprive the enemy of hiding places in tall grasses and underbrush in the woods for defense, as well as using fire for offensive reasons.

- **Economic Extortion** - Some tribes also used fire for a "scorched-earth" policy to deprive settlers and fur traders from easy access to big game and thus benefitting from being "middlemen" in supplying pemmican and jerky.

- **Clearing Areas for Travel** - Fires started to clear trails for travel through areas that were overgrown with grass or brush. Fire helped with providing better visibility through forests and brush lands.

- **Felling Trees** - Felling trees by boring two intersecting holes with hot charcoal dropped in one hole, smoke exiting from the other. Another way was to simply kill the tree at the base by surrounding it with fire. Fire also used to kill trees for dry kindling and firewood.

- **Clearing Riparian Areas** - Fire used to clear brush from riparian areas and marshes for new grasses and tree sprouts to benefit beaver, muskrats, moose, and waterfowl.

Personnel Update

BEAVERHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ROE, JOAN, from computer clerk, Gallatin SO, to personnel clerk, Beaverhead/Deerlodge/Gallatin Personnel Office, Bozeman

BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDERSON, GARY, forestry technician, Sula RD, cash award
 BEER, JEFF, vocational instructor (warehousing), Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to supervisory training specialist (maintenance)
 COX, MARIA, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
 DAVISON, LINDA, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
 FERGUSON, CLARENCE, training technician, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to supervisory recreation specialist
 GUINARD, TIM, forestry technician, Sula RD, cash award
 KAHL, JIM, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to vocational instructor (warehousing)
 KING, BRIAN, forestry technician, Darby RD, group award
 LISTER, CHADE, forestry technician, Darby RD, group award
 LUBKE, TONY, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
 MAJORS, MARCIA, social services assistant, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to training technician
 MITCHELL, GARY, forestry technician, Darby RD, group award
 PRICE, JEANNETTE, assistant center director, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to center director
 REICHE, LINDA, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award
 SWINDLE, CHINOOK, welding training leader, Trapper Creek JCC, temporary promotion to supervisory training specialist (work programs)
 VINGL, DAVE, forestry technician, Darby RD, group award
 WILEY, DON, forestry technician, West Fork RD, cash award

CUSTER NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

FRANCIS, KERRY M., from supervisory personnel management specialist, Ashley NF, R-4, promotion, personnel officer, Custer NF
 LAPOINT, HALCYON J., archeologist, SO, cash award
 MILLER, GENE L., forestry technician, Medora RD, cash award
 PIERSON, PAT, forester, Beartooth RD, cash award
 SWALLING, JULIE A., office automation clerk, Medora RD, cash award
 THOMPSON, CARLA R., computer specialist, SO, detail, temporary promotion, supervisory computer specialist, Bitterroot NF
 WILLETT, VALERIE D., information receptionist, SO, cash award

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

FRANCIS, C. MICHAEL, information receptionist typing, R-4, Ashley NF, reassignment, information receptionist, Custer NF

FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

TALLY LAKE RANGER DISTRICT, 1994 Forest safety award
 MELLEM, RON, cartographic technician, SO, spot award
 SMILEY, DAN, supervisory civil engineer, SO, promotion, forest engineer
 YOUNG, SHARI, telephone operator, SO, promotion

REASSIGNMENT

SLEIGHT, DOUG, forestry technician, from Idaho Panhandle NF to SO

GALLATIN NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

ANDERSON, GREG, from supervisory forestry technician (smokejumper)/air center manager, West Yellowstone Information Fire Center, promotion, AFD, Missoula
 CARY, DAVE, recreation/planner, Bozeman RD, cash award
 DENECKE, DICK, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award
 HALSTROM, LARS, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award
 KOTKA, KARLA, resource clerk, Livingston RD, cash award
 MARTELL, STEVE, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award
 MICHEL, DON, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award
 PINCES, JOHN, forestry technician, Bozeman RD, cash award
 ROE, JOAN, personnel clerk, SO, cash award
 WYTANIS, JOHN, forester, Livingston RD, cash award

IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS

AWARDS/PROMOTIONS

MECKEL, MARGARET, cash award, SO
 TOWN, TIM, personnel management specialist, SO, temporary promotion, administration officer, R-6, Colville NF

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

HULSIZER, VICKIE, reassignment, resource clerk, Wallace RD, to office automation clerk, Fernan RD

RESIGNATIONS

ALLEN, ALLISON, resignation, forestry technician, Priest Lake RD

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

GREBENC, JEROME, forestry technician, Missoula RD, special act award
 GRILL, STARLA, accounting technician, SO, spot award
 LEMIEUX, LORI, forestry technician, Missoula RD, spot award from Helena NF
 LONSKI, JASON, forestry technician, Missoula RD, special act award
 MACDONALD, DIANNE, civilian pay clerk, Missoula RD, performance award
 MUCCI, DEBORAH, civil engineering technician, Missoula RD, spot award from Helena NF
 WICKS, JENNIFER, forestry technician, Missoula RD, special act award
 ATKINS, DAVE, forester, SO, promotion to ecologist
 PARTYKA, CHRIS, civil engineering technician, Plains RD, progressive promotion
 RAINES, RICH, civil engineering technician, Missoula RD, progressive promotion

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

ELLIOTT, NANCY, accounting technician, SO, reassignment to resource clerk
 LOMAN, MERLE, resource clerk, SO, reassignment to accounting technician
 PERRY, STEVEN, law enforcement officer, Superior RD, reassignment to training instructor, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glyncro, Georgia

REGIONAL OFFICE

AWARDS & PROMOTIONS

BANKS, CHRISTOPHER, contract specialist, ADM, promotion
 LUSTGRAFF, SARAH, visual information specialist, MTDC, promotion
 MONNIG, EDWARD, pesticide coordinator, TCFPM, award
 NELSON, LINDA, resource assistant, RFO, award
 WIGGINS, MARK, audio-visual production specialist, MTDC, promotion
 SUTHERLAND, MILEY, contract specialist, RO, R-5, promotion to RO ADM

REASSIGNMENTS/TRANSFERS

PEARSON, ROBERTA, management analyst, ADM, to executive assistant, RFO
 SUTHERLAND, MILEY, contract specialist, ADM, reassignment

RETIREMENTS

Ted Butler, employee relations specialist, Regional Office Personnel Management, retired in September after 30 years with the Forest Service. Forest Service assignments included the Angell Job Corps Center, Yachats, Oregon; Dickinson Job Corps Center, Dickinson, North Dakota; and Trapper Creek Job Corps Center, Darby, Montana.

Ted and his wife Marge will continue to make their home in Florence, Montana.

John Inman, acting director of Regional Office Administration, retired in September after 33 years with the Forest Service. Forest Service assignments included responsibilities in range and wildlife management at the SO, Deerlodge National Forest; assistant forest ranger Lewistown-Stanford Ranger District, Lewis & Clark National Forest; on range-wildlife staff in the Regional Office; district ranger at Big Timber Ranger District, Gallatin National Forest; planning staff officer, Custer National Forest, Dickinson, North Dakota; deputy forest supervisor, Custer National Forest; and Forest Supervisor, Humboldt National Forest, R-4.

Personnel Update

His retirement plans include restoration of vintage car, hunting and fishing. John and his wife will continue to make their home in Florence, Montana.

Ray Merkel, supervisory vocational training instructor, Trapper Creek Job Corps Center, retired September 30 after 28 years of service. He began his Job Corps career in 1966 at the Dickinson JCC in North Dakota, transferring to the Trapper Creek JCC in 1969 as the carpenter instructor. In 1971 he was promoted to building maintenance supervisor over all trades in building maintenance.

Ray and his wife Linda will be moving to their new home in Stevensville, Montana.

Ray McLaughlin, management analyst, Regional Office Administration, retired in September after 31 years with the Forest Service. Other agency employment included the El Dorado National Forest, R-5; Glide Ranger District, and Umpqua National Forest, R-6; North Tongass National Forest, and Regional Office, R-10; Chief's Office, Washington, D.C.; then to R-1 Regional Office until his retirement.

His retirement plans will involve helping his wife Kay manage her travel agency, jointly planning and escorting tours; play tennis, ski, fish, dabble in ham radio, and private flying. Ray and Kay will continue to live in Missoula.

Roger Thomas, supervisory contract specialist, Regional Office Administration, retired in September after 31 years with the Forest Service. Roger previously worked at the Wasatch and Boise National Forests in R-4; R-6 headquarters, San Francisco, California; operations staff, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.; and Eastern Regional headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Retirement plans for the time-being include more golfing and some hunting. Roger and his wife Donna will continue to make their home in Missoula.

Other Retirements

BLOXAM, TOM, contract specialist, RO, ADM.
 CRISWELL, JOHN, supervisory forester, SO, IPNF
 DAMASKOS, FRANK, civil engineering technician, RO, ENG
 GILMAN, WALT, civil engineer, SO, Flathead NF
 HAAG, RONALD, Director, RO, RAWE
 HAY, ART, civil engineer, SO, Flathead NF
 HUFF, WALLACE, forester, SO, IPNF
 JENSEN, JACKIE, supervisory contract specialist, SO, Flathead NF
 OHMSTEDE, ROBERT, civil engineer, SO, IPNF
 PORT, RALPH, civil engineer, St. Maries RD, IPNF
 QUINN, JOSEPH, principal, Trapper Creek CCC, Bitterroot NF

In Memoriam

Chris Carr, 57, died October 7. Born in Bakersfield, California, Carr had 31 years of service with the Forest Service. Assignments included the Hot Springs Ranger Station, Sequoia National Forest; Shasta-Trinity National Forests; Greenhorn Ranger Station, Sequoia National Forest; Happy Camp Ranger District, Klamath National Forest; LaPorte District Ranger, Plumas National Forest; Cajon District Ranger, San Bernadino National Forest; R-5 Regional Office; timber management officer on the Eldorado National Forest.

At the time of his death, Chris served as timber management officer on the Clearwater National Forest of R-1.

Jack Victor Hangas, 83, died October 13 in Missoula. He was born in Hamilton. He was reported to have worked for the Forest Service until 1936; after which he was employed by the telephone company.

Harold, Stipe, 70, died September 30. Born in Tioga, North Dakota, Stipe began his 30 years of employment with the Forest Service with the Hungry Horse Ranger District. He worked in the construction and maintenance shop as a motor vehicle operator when he recently retired on April 3, 1994.

Ernest 'Neb' Taylor, 76, died October 17 in Missoula. Born in Missoula, Taylor was reported to have worked for the Forest Service at some point during his career as well as in the private sector before retiring in 1978.

Irvin Wortman, 77, died October 1. He was born July 31, 1917, at Gallatin Gateway, Montana. He worked for the Forest Service from 1953 to 1971.

Irvin was active in the rodeo circuit and was an outstanding horseman.

NRN Gets New Editor

The next issue of the Northern Region News will have a new editor, Judson Moore, who has been with the RO Public Affairs Office since 1962. I will be moving to another position within the Public Affairs Office. I wish to express my appreciation for all the cooperation I've received during my tenure as editor. For me it has been a great three years. Welcome aboard, Jud.

Gloria Weisgerber
 Editor, NRN

Newsletter Guidelines

The Northern Region News is published by the Northern Region Public Affairs Office for employees and retirees. The following are guidelines for submitting stories:

- Articles should feature Forest Service employees and retirees involved in Forest Service activities and projects.
- Articles must be concise and timely. All articles are subject to editing, and may not be used if outdated, inappropriate, or if space does not permit.
- Photos should be black and white, glossy prints if possible.

Send articles to J. Moore: R01A (Data General) or Jud Moore, Northern Region Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 7669, Missoula, MT 59807. The public affairs officer on your Forest may want to preview articles before they are sent. If so, please follow that process.

Northern Region News is published by:

Public Affairs Office
 USDA Forest Service
 P.O. Box 7669
 Missoula, MT 59807

Editor: Gloria Weisgerber
 Personnel Information: Margaret Wirtz
 Layout/Graphics: Carol Evans

The policy of the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, familial status, or political affiliation. Persons believing they have been discriminated against in any Forest Service related activity should write to: Chief, Forest Service, USDA, P.O. Box 96090, Washington, DC 20090-6090.

Roll Call for the Ninemile CCC Camp

by Lisa Stoeffler, Resource Forester, and
Lynne Sholty, Computer Assistant
Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

The role was called once again for the enrollees of the Ninemile Civilian Conservation Corps Camp. This past summer more than 65 alumni and their families gathered to recall stories, exchange pictures and sing songs of days past. The reunion was the culmination of three years of research and oral history documentation by the Ninemile Ranger District.

Many of us know the story of the CCC as a chapter in the history of the Depression. For those young men, all in their late teens or early '20s who signed up as enrollees, it was an important part of their lives. As stories were passed back and forth at the celebration, it was heard time and time again that the CCC years were the best years of their lives—as well as being among the most difficult.

Jim Featherly of Portland, Oregon, re-

membered the Christmas that everyone was quarantined to camp due to a mumps epidemic. The truck driver brought whiskey back for all the enrollees and they spent Christmas Day running around camp in their underwear. He recalled that one guy was ambushed by the others and had to wear a toilet seat around his neck for the day.

People traveled from as far away as Arizona and Oklahoma to attend the reunion. One fellow, Ted Maki, came from California when he heard that his good friend from Butte was going to be there. They hadn't seen each other in more than 40 years. Marilyn Vierhus, wife of the CCC superintendent, came from Helena to visit the site where she and her family had lived and worked. The men were pleased to see her and her daughter and had many fond recollections of what a fine man her husband Lou had been.

The day's events included an open house at the Ninemile Ranger Station and a formal welcome by District Ranger Greg Munther.



Former CCC enrollees at reunion at Ninemile

After a group picture and rendition of the CCC song, everyone gathered at the original CCC site to unveil the new interpretive signs. Although the landscape of the camp had changed, the guests wandered through it and tried to make their memories fit the way the camp looks today. Many tried to find the foundations for the buildings where they worked and ate and slept. The day ended with a picnic and more catching up between friends.

Many thanks to Lynne Sholty and the many other Ninemile employees for their hard work in organizing, planning and hosting this event.

The Northern Region News
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, MT 59807

BULK RATE

Postage & Fees Paid
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40

USDA NATL AG LIB (3 CYS)**
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS RM 002
10301 BALTIMORE BOULEVARD
BELTSVILLE MD 20705

Official Business
Penalty For Private Use \$300

Federal Recycling Program



Printed on Recycled, Recyclable Paper